

Case 3205

***Cyphosoma* Mannerheim, 1837 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation, and *Halecia* Laporte & Gory, 1837 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over *Pristiptera* Dejean, 1833**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3, 81.2.2 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the widely used generic names *Cyphosoma* Mannerheim, 1837 and *Halecia* Laporte & Gory, 1837 for groups of jewel beetles by suppression of *Cyphonota* Dejean, 1833 (the senior synonym of *Cyphosoma*) and by giving conditional precedence to *Halecia* over its senior synonym *Pristiptera* Dejean, 1833. The two senior names have been used only once since 1899.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; BUPRESTIDAE; *Cyphosoma*; *Halecia*; *Pristiptera*; jewel beetles; Palaearctic; neotropical.

1. Dejean (1833) introduced the generic names *Cyphonota* (p. 79) and *Pristiptera* (p. 78) for two groups of jewel beetles (family BUPRESTIDAE), but did not designate type species for either genus. *Cyphonota* contained two species: *Buprestis sibirica* Fabricius, 1781 and *B. tatarica* Pallas, 1773 (p. 464) (see Evenhuis, 1997, p. 594 for date of publication of Pallas, 1773). Bílý (2001, p. 150) subsequently designated *Buprestis tatarica* Pallas, 1773 as the type species of *Cyphonota*. *Pristiptera* contained four specific names. The last three of these are nomina nuda and so the first of the included names, *Buprestis blanda* Fabricius, 1781 (p. 276), is the type species by monotypy of *Pristiptera*.

2. Mannerheim (1837, p. 91) introduced *Cyphosoma* as a replacement name for *Cyphonota* Dejean, 1833 having supposed Dejean's name to be a homonym of *Cyphonotus* Fischer, 1824 (family MELOLONTHIDAE). Although Mannerheim was wrong (*Cyphonota* and *Cyphonotus* are not homonyms), the name *Cyphosoma* Mannerheim, 1837 has been used continuously since 1837 for a small group of eight species from the Mediterranean region. The type species of *Cyphosoma* is *Buprestis tatarica* Pallas, 1773 by designation by Bílý (2001) (see Article 67.8).

3. According to the provisions of Article 23.9.1 of the Code, we have found more than 30 authors who used the name *Cyphosoma* Mannerheim, 1837 in the course of

the previous 50 years in more than 35 papers. With a single exception, Holynski (1993), the name *Cyphonota* Dejean, 1833 has not been used after 1899.

4. Laporte & Gory (1837, p. 108) introduced the generic name *Halecia*. Nine species were included, but no type species was designated. Lacordaire (1857, p. 23) treated *Pristiptera* as a synonym of *Halecia* and designated *Buprestis blanda* Fabricius, 1781 as the type species of *Halecia*. There are currently 90 Neotropical species placed within *Halecia*. We have found an uninterrupted use of *Halecia* by more than 10 authors in more than 25 papers since the time of Lacordaire's (1857) synonymy of *Pristiptera* under *Halecia*. With a single exception, Holynski (1993), the name *Pristiptera* Dejean, 1833 has not been used after 1899.

5. Holynski (1993) used the names *Cyphonota* and *Pristiptera* and so prevented action to conserve the junior names under Article 23.9.1 of the Code. He used both names without any comment, probably without knowledge of all the circumstances and only among other names as an example of genera of the tribes Psilopterini and Chalcophorini respectively.

6. It should be noted that *Buprestis blanda* Fabricius is not congeneric with the widely accepted, traditional definition of *Halecia*. This species was considered either in *Buprestis*, *Pristiptera* or *Halecia* until Théry (1930) cited K.G. Blair (The Natural History Museum, London), who considered *B. blanda* as a synonym of *Pelecops-elaphus elongatus* Thomson, 1878 (p. 24). Staig (1940) provides a detailed description of this species and a color plate that confirms the opinion of Blair and Théry. Obenberger (1958) recognized the misidentification of *B. blanda* by Laporte & Gory, and proposed a replacement name: *blandula*, for the species described and figured by them.

7. To avoid the confusion that would result by overturning the traditional stability of these genera, a new type species is needed for *Halecia*. Of the original nine species listed under *Halecia* by Laporte & Gory, 1837 (pp. 108–114), four are now placed in other genera. From the remaining five species, we herewith designate *Buprestis trisulcata* Laporte & Gory, 1837 (p. 112) as the type species of *Halecia* under Article 70.3 of the Code.

8. In summary, we make this application because: (i) the names *Cyphosoma* and *Halecia* have been used continuously since 1837 in many papers by numerous authors and their respective taxonomic definition and content are clear; (ii) the only usage of the names *Cyphonota* and *Pristiptera* within the last 154 years were not accompanied by any comment and were mentioned only as examples of genera included in the tribes Psilopterini and Chalcophorini respectively; and (iii) the re-introduction of *Cyphonota* and *Pristiptera* would be a source of much misunderstanding and confusion among those working in applied entomology.

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power:
 - (a) to suppress the name *Cyphonota* Dejean, 1833 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (b) to give *Halecia* Laporte & Gory, 1837 precedence over the name *Pristiptera* Dejean, 1833 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:

- (a) *Cyphosoma* Mannerheim, 1837 (gender: feminine), type species *Buprestis tatarica* Pallas, 1773, by subsequent designation by Bílý (2001) of the replaced nominal genus *Cyphonota* Dejean, 1833;
 - (b) *Halecia* Laporte & Gory, 1837 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Bílý & Bellamy in para. 7 above *Buprestis trisulcata* Laporte & Gory, 1837, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Pristiptera* Dejean, 1833, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (c) *Pristiptera* Dejean, 1833, (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Buprestis blanda* Fabricius, 1781, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Halecia* Laporte & Gory, 1837 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *tatarica* Pallas, 1773, as published in the binomen *Buprestis tatarica* (specific name of the type species of *Cyphosoma* Mannerheim, 1837);
 - (b) *trisulcata* Laporte & Gory, 1837, as published in the binomen *Buprestis trisulcata* (specific name of the type species of *Halecia* Laporte & Gory, 1837);
 - (c) *blanda* Fabricius, 1781, as published in the binomen *Buprestis blanda* (specific name of the type species of *Pristiptera* Dejean, 1833);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Cyphonota* Dejean, 1833, as suppressed in (1)(a) above.

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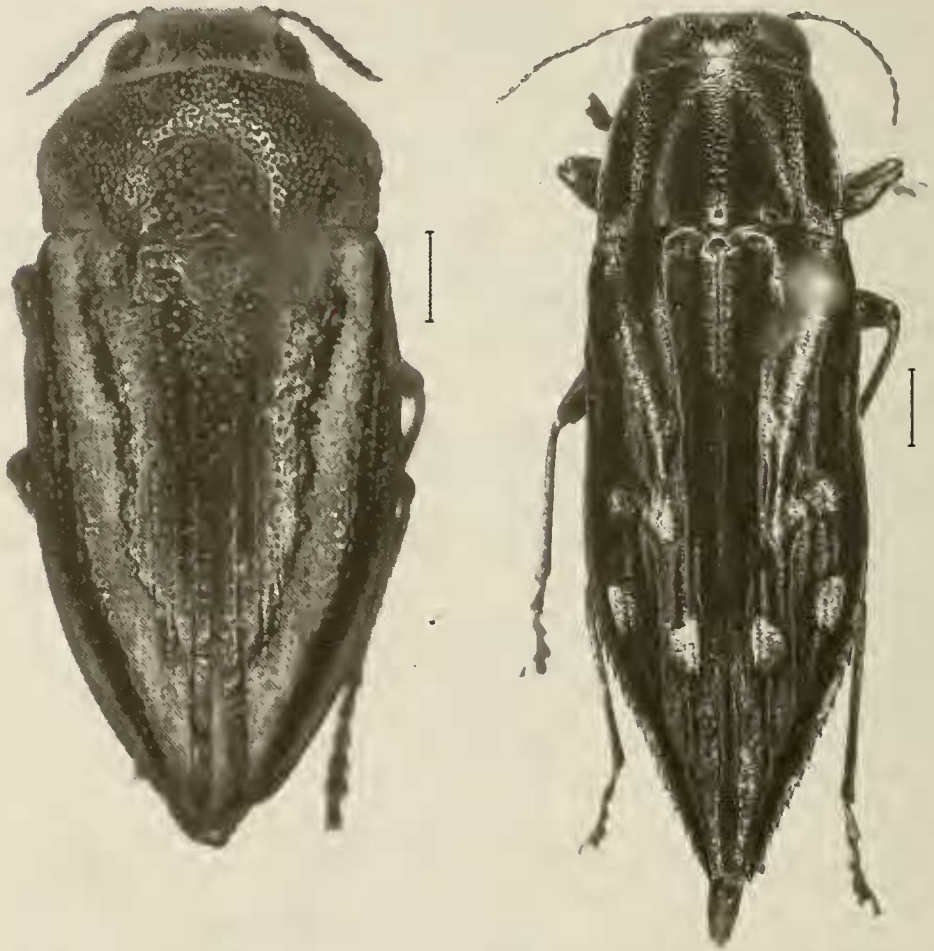
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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).



Left: *Buprestis tatarica* Pallas, 1773.

Right: *Halecia trisulcata* Laporte & Gory, 1837.
Scale bar is 1.00 mm.